

messages include Login Reply message, Logout Reply message, SNMP Get Reply message, SNMP Get Next Reply message, SNMP Set Reply message, Open File For Write Reply message, Write File Reply message, Close File After Write Reply message, Open File For Read Reply message, Read File Reply message, and Close File After Read Reply message. The processing and memory circuit 202 forwards the SMP reply messages to the network interface circuit 200 where the messages are reformatted and transmitted through network 12 to workstation 10. The reply messages can be sent to the workstation 10 which sent the request message to the managed appliance 11. Alternatively, the reply messages can be sent to another workstation 10 or other network device if desired.

Modifications and substitutions to the present invention made by one of ordinary skill in the art are considered to be within the scope of the present invention, which is not to be limited except by the claims which follow.

What is claimed is:

1. A system comprising:

a workstation communicatively coupled to a network; and

a managed appliance communicatively coupled to the network;

wherein the workstation operatively initiates a management session with the managed appliance by establishing a secure sockets layer connection with the appliance and then issuing a login request to the managed appliance, and

wherein the transmission of SNMP commands occurs over the secure sockets layer connection by using a secure sockets layer communication method.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the login request is a message that includes a user name and a password corresponding to a workstation user.
3. The system of claim 1, wherein the managed appliance responds to the login request by transmitting a login reply across the network.
4. The system of claim 3, wherein the login reply is a message that includes status data reflecting the status of the login request.
5. The system of claim 1, wherein, during the management session, the workstation requests object identifier data from the managed appliance.
6. The system of claim 5, wherein the managed appliance transmits object identifier data to the workstation.
7. The system of claim 1, wherein, during the management session, the workstation sets the value of an object identifier in the managed appliance.
8. The system of claim 1, wherein, during the management session, the workstation writes a file to the managed appliance.
9. The system of claim 8, wherein the workstation transmits a request message to the managed appliance containing a name of the file and a size of the file.
10. The system of claim 9, wherein the managed appliance transmits a reply message to the workstation in response to the request message.
11. The system of claim 1, wherein, during the management session, the workstation reads a file from the managed appliance.
12. The system of claim 11, wherein workstation transmits to the managed appliance an identification of a name of the file to be read.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein the managed appliance transmits blocks of data comprising the file to the workstation, said blocks of data being transmitted one at a time.

14. The system of claim 1, wherein the workstation transmits a broadcast message to the managed appliance.